

First Post Office  
(Cabinet shop of Jacobus Weels)  
Kingston  
Ulster County  
New York

N.Y. 3227

HABS  
NY  
56-KING  
8-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
Albany District

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office

Vandenburgh-Hasbrouck House  
(First Post Office, Cabinet Shop of Jacobus Weels)  
10 Crown Street  
Kingston  
Ulster County  
New York

HABS No. NY-3227

Addendum to

First Post Office (Cabinet Shop of Jacobus Weels)  
10 Crown Street  
Ulster  
New York

in HABS Catalog (1959)

HABS,  
NY,  
56-KING,  
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#### PHOTOGRAPHS

#### HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. NY-3227

## VANDENBURGH-HASBROUCK HOUSE

(First Post Office, Cabinet Shop of Jacobus Weels)

Location: 10 Crown Street, Kingston, Ulster County, New York  
 Latitude: 41° 55' 58" Longitude: 74° 01' 16"

Present Owner and Occupant: Albany Savings Bank.

Significance: A small stone domestic dwelling, first built in the Colonial period, was burned during the Revolutionary War and rebuilt afterwards.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The house was built after 1704 for Gysbert Vandenburg, and rebuilt after 1777 for Abraham Hasbrouck, Junior.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following deeds are on file in the Record Room, County Clerk's Office, Ulster County Office Building, Kingston, New York.

- 1704 Deed: 15 December 1704, Unrecorded: described in 1752 deed, see below  
 Cornelis Masten  
 to  
 Gysbert Vandenburg  
 On the same date Vandenburg purchased the adjoining northern lot with a house on it from Jockem Van Amen (Unrecorded, described in 1752 deed below).
- 1752 Deed: 19 June 1752, Recorded: 18 April 1754  
 liber EE, page 335  
 Gysbert Vandenburg  
 to  
 Abraham Hasbrouck, Junior

This deed includes both parcels purchased in 1704. The lot obtained from Masten is described as being just as wide "as the house of said Gysbert is there on standing." No mention is made of the earlier house on Van Amen's lot.

According to the book, The History of Kingston, New York, by Marius Schoonmaker, Abraham Hasbrouck, Junior, is listed as having lost a house and a barn in the conflagration of Kingston of Kingston. He still owned the property in 1793 according to the deed of an adjoining property (liber 00, page 368).

John Tappen apparently acquired the house from Hasbrouck in the 1790s or early 1800s. He in turn sold it to Cornelius Tappen in 1807, two years after he bought the house across the street (liber 17, page 306).

1807 Deed: 14 March 1807, Recorded: 12 February 1811  
liber 20, page 184  
John Tappen and Sarah, his wife  
to  
Cornelius Tappen

1820 On 7 November 1820 property of Cornelius Tappen in Kingston was sold by the sheriff to Jonathan D. Ostrander (Sheriff's Certificates, volume I, page 316). The certificate is missing, but the price of \$640 was ten dollars less than the Crown Street House sold for in 1832 (liber 38, page 616).

In a deed to an adjoining property in 1830 (liber 36, page 345), John Sudam stated that he owned the Crown Street property and that he acquired it from Cornelius Tappen. Ostrander and Sudam were sometimes listed as business partners. Herman M. Romeyn is sometimes mentioned as being in possession of the property (liber 36, page 345), but he apparently only leased the house.

1832 Deed: 19 April 1832, Recorded: 28 April 1832  
liber 38, page 616  
John Sudam and Maria, his wife  
to  
Cornelius Beekman

1842 Deed: 3 May 1842, Recorded: 6 May 1842  
liber 58, page 370  
Cornelius Beekman and Anna Margeret, his wife  
to  
Isaac Van Buren

1842 Deed: 4 May 1842, Recorded: 11 May 1842  
liber 58, page 412  
Isaac Van Buren and Agness, his wife  
to  
Jonathan D. Ostrander

1857 Deed: 1 May 1857, Recorded: 1 May 1857  
Liber 99, page 579  
Catharine H. Ostrander, executrix and  
James E. Ostrander, executor of the will of  
Jonathan D. Ostrander  
to  
Abraham L. Valkenburgh

- 1904 Eliza M. Valkenburgh, wife of Abraham L. Valkenburgh,  
died 2 May 1904 (file box No. 592, Surrogate's Office,  
Ulster County Office Building, Kingston, New York).  
Heirs: Lizzie Lewis - 1/5 part  
Jennie Valkenburgh - 1/5 part  
Kate Clark - 1/5 part  
Clifford E. Meyers - 1/5 part  
Fred Sands Smith - 1/10 part  
F. Clark Smith - 1/10 part
- 1920 Will: 3 December 1915, Proved: 14 January 1920  
Will book 10, page 208  
Jennie Valkenburgh, deceased  
to  
Lizzie Lewis  
All the property of the deceased
- 1920 Deed: 13 March 1920, Recorded: 5 April 1920  
liber 474, page 269  
F. Clark Smith  
to  
James E. O'Neill  
1/10 part of the property
- 1920 Deed: 30 March 1920, Recorded: 2 April 1920  
liber 474, page 233  
Clifford E. Meyers  
to  
James E. O'Neill  
1/5 part of the property
- 1920 Deed: 1 July 1920, Recorded: 14 August 1920  
liber 477, page 241  
Fred Sands Smith  
to  
James E. O'Neill  
1/10 part of the property
- 1920 Deed: 14 September 1920, Recorded: 15 September 1920  
liber 477, page 562  
Lizzie Lewis  
to  
James E. O'Neill  
2/5 part of the property
- 1920 Deed: 14 September 1920, Recorded: 17 October 1920  
liber 478, page 241  
Kate Clark  
to  
James E. O'Neill  
1/5 part of the property

- 1926 James E. O'Neill died 27 February 1926  
(file box No. 1181)  
Heirs: Mary C. O'Neill, widow  
William V. O'Neill  
James A. O'Neill  
Richard H. O'Neill  
Mae L. Griffiths  
Pauline Joyce
- 1932 James A. O'Neill died 26 August 1932  
Will book 14, page 642
- 1941 Mary C. O'Neill died 26 April 1941
- 1945 Deed: 6 August 1945, Recorded: 9 August 1945  
liber 654, page 220  
William V. O'Neill, executor of the will of  
James A. O'Neill  
to  
Melvin A. Passer
- 1945 Deed: 6 August 1945, Recorded: 9 August 1945  
liber 654, page 221  
Thelma H. O'Neill, widow of  
James A. O'Neill  
to  
Melvin A. Passer
- 1945 Deed: 6 August 1945, Recorded: 9 August 1945  
liber 654, page 233  
William V. O'Neill  
Mae L. Griffiths  
Richard H. O'Neill, and Rose O'Neill, his wife  
Pauline M. Joyce  
to  
Melvin A. Passer
- 1946 Deed: 5 March 1946, Recorded: 5 March 1946  
liber 661, page 505  
Melvin A. Passer  
to  
Charles R. Ten Eyck  
Beatrice Ora Ten Eyck
- 1946 Deed: 16 November 1946, Recorded: 16 November 1946  
Charles R. Ten Eyck  
Beatrice Ora Ten Eyck  
to  
John A. Cole, Inc.

- 1959 Deed: 10 January 1959, Recorded: 14 January 1959  
liber 1053, page 418  
John A. Cole, Inc.  
to  
John A. Cole and  
Charles R. Cole
- 1971 Deed: 10 December 1971 Recorded: 10 December 1971  
liber 1271, page 106  
John A. Cole and  
Charles R. Cole  
to  
The Kingston Savings Bank
- 1979 Albany Savings Bank

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Not Known.
5. Original plan and construction: The front part of the house was built first. The lean-to on the rear was added later. However, the manner in which the rafters of both parts lap the rear plate of the main house suggests that the roof structures of both sections were built at the same time, possibly after the fire of 1777. Mr. Charles Cole, one of the last owners, stated that when he repaired the interior wall between the stair hall and parlor about 1947, he found the wall was made of horizontal boards fitted into slotted uprights, roughed up with an axe so that plaster would adhere.
6. Alterations and additions: The stairway appears to have been modified. The present stair rail is not original. There are indications on the attic floor that there was a stairway to the attic over the present stair well. The main stairway would then have to have been different. Marks on floor joists in the basement suggest that the basement stairs may have been in the northeast corner of the main house.

Sometime in the nineteenth century a wooden addition with a false front was built on the north side, and a dormer window was put on the back.

In 1947 the Coles did extensive work on the house. They removed the wooden addition on the north side and added a new wooden wall as the north wall of the lean-to. Judging from photographs taken during these renovations, it seems that this north side of the addition was never closed in with stone, as the edges of adjoining stone wall are smooth finished edges. At some time, probably when the addition was added, the door from the main part of the house

was cut through on the north wall. The resulting jagged hole was finished off with a brick edging in 1947. At this time the two small bathrooms were also removed from the downstairs hall and two other toilets were installed upstairs. A new roof was added, the rear chimney taken down, and the two rear rooms paneled. A furnace was added and a flue cut up from the basement behind the main fireplace. A basement window with bars typical in the Kingston area, was removed and replaced with a single pane window. The southeast door at the rear of the lean-to is now filled up.

7. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Gysbert Vandenburg was the son-in-law of Cornelis Masten, from whom he bought his house and lot. Masten's house seems to have stood closed to the Vandenburg south side.

Abraham Hasbrouck, Junior, was a skipper. He was a first cousin of Colonel Abraham Hasbrouck, a prominent citizen of Kingston before the Revolution.

Cornelius Tappen's name appeared as a surveyor on local maps in the early 1800s. He was also town clerk for a time. The house itself has been locally referred to as the Cornelius Tappen House.

Many of the later owners such as Sudam, Beekman and Ostrander were large land owners and apparently rented the house. At one time the house was used as a post office, a cabinet shop and a private school, which was probably held in the wooden addition (from Notes of Reverend Hoes, Senate House Museum, Kingston, New York).

Abraham Valkenburgh ran a livery business on the property around 1866 (from Kingston Directory, 1866). His wife Eliza and daughter Jennie occupied the house until their respective deaths.

When the O'Neills owned the property it was rented as a two-family house.

The Coles, one of the last owners of the house, ran a real estate business in the building for many years.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deeds, mortgages, sheriff's certificates, County Clerk's Office, Ulster County Office Building, Kingston, New York

Documents, photos and notes in the Senate House Museum, Kingston, New York

Interview with Charles R. Cole, past owner, 121 North Front Street, Kingston, New York

Wills, Surrogate's Office, Ulster County Office Building, Kingston, New York

2. Secondary and published sources:

Anjou, Gustave. Ulster County, New York, Probate Records, volumes I and II, New York, 1906.

Clearwater, Alphonso T., ed. The History of Ulster County, New York. Kingston, New York, 1907

De Witt, William C. Peoples History of Kingston, Rondout and Vicinity. New Haven, 1943.

Hickey, Andrew S. The Story of Kingston. New York, 1952.

Hoes, Roswell Randall, ed. Baptismal and Marriage Registers of the Old Dutch Church of Kingston, New York, 1891

Olde Ulster. Kingston, New York, 1905-14

1790 United States Census for New York

Schoonmaker, Marius. The History of Kingston, New York. New York, 1888

Sylvester, Nathaniel Bartlett. History of Ulster County, New York. Philadelphia, 1880

Prepared by William C. Badger  
Historian  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
Summer 1972

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house is an example of domestic architecture of the eighteenth century with an early kitchen and a rear lean-to.
2. Condition of fabric: The over-all condition of the house is fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The house measures 25'-8" (three-bay front) x 37' including the lean-to, and is two-and-a-half stories with a basement. The lean-to is two stories with no basement.
2. Foundations: The main house has a heavy, rough limestone foundation. The lean-to stands on limestone grade beams.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The rubble exterior walls are plastered. The north and south walls in the second floor level are covered with clapboards. The modern addition on the north side also has clapboards. The rear lean-to is covered with modern asbestos and wood siding.
4. Structural system, framing: The house's structural system is of hand-hewn wood interior frame construction. The roof's structural system is of similar construction.
5. Stoops: There are bluestone steps to the west (front) door and a modern stoop with steps to the north door.
6. Chimneys: There are two brick chimneys in the structure, one in the south wall of the main house and the other in the center of the lean-to. The latter chimney has been removed from the second floor level and no longer raises above the roof.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance is recessed into the stone wall. The door is paneled on the exterior and batten with diagonal boards on the interior. A rectangular transom with a half-elliptical fanlight is over the door.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Wooden double-hung windows on the ground floor have twelve-over-twelve lights, although the bottom lights have been replaced by single large panes. The second floor wooden double-hung windows have eight-over-twelve lights. The shutters are board and batten on first floor and louvered on second.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: A gable roof slopes from front to back. The lean-to is under the back slope. The old wooden shingles are still on the roof, but are now covered with modern asphalt shingles.
- b. Dormers: One gabled dormer, a later addition, is on the roof of the lean-to.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: The basement is under the main portion of the house and is accessible through first floor stairway on the northeast side of the hall. It contains large supports for fireplaces and modern oil heating system and fuel tank.
  - b. First floor: The entrance in the left bay opens into a hall that runs straight back into the lean-to portion of the house. To the right there is a parlor with a large fireplace. The lean-to contains the kitchen and in the southeast portion of this part. There is a bedroom that opened to the outside originally. There is another door to the left of the main entry that now opens outside but once opened into another addition. The stairway is located at the northeast side of the hall.
  - c. Second floor: The plan is similar to the first floor. The northeast stair gives access to an upper hall which in turn leads to a bedroom over the parlor. There is a small room at the northwest end of the stair hall and the door at the northeast leads to the upper floor of the lean-to.
2. Stairway: There is a wooden stairway of plain design located in the northeast hall.
3. Flooring: The lean-to and the halls are now covered with linoleum. There is much heavy plank wood flooring throughout. The parlor has a small plank tongue-and-groove floor. The basement has a dirt floor.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The basement walls are whitewashed plaster. In the first floor, the partition wall between the hall and the parlor is made of studs with lath and plaster. There is a similar wall between the stair hall and the bedroom in the second floor. The plaster on this wall is reinforced with chopped straw. The parlor walls have a bolection molding. The partition wall between the kitchen and the southeast room in the lean-to is brick, but is now covered with modern "knotty pine" paneling. A plastered stone wall divides the lean-to and the main building. The room in the second floor lean-to has whitewashed plaster walls. The first and second floor ceilings in the main building are exposed floor boards with some indications of whitewash. The lean-to has a fiber paneled ceiling.
5. Doorways and doors: The front door is paneled on the outside and overlaid with board and batten on the interior face. The diagonal battens are molded. The door connecting the hall and the parlor is a six-paneled door. The doors in the upstairs rooms are made of two or three flat boards with beaded stiles and are of simple design.
6. Decorative features and trim: There is a built-in cabinet work in the kitchen and the southeast room. The cabinets in the latter are painted blue gray.
7. Hardware: The front interior door has notable metal strap hinges with circular cusps. The door leading to the upstairs lean-to has H and L hinges and a thumb latch. This door was originally equipped with a heart-shaped back plate Suffolk latch. Some other doors also have H and L hinges. More of these hinges are stored loose in the house.
8. Mechanical equipment:
  - a. Heating: The building is heated by a modern oil burning furnace. The principal fireplaces are in the parlor, in the upstairs bedroom and in the southeast room. The first two fireplaces have mantels. The bedroom mantel is the most ornate, and is of metal construction. It has a classical design with a tree in the center. There is a large kitchen fireplace in the basement that was used for cooking. A gudgeon still exists in its interior. To the left of the fireplace is a domical bake oven that has a flue to the chimney.

b. Lighting: There are modern incandescent ceiling lights throughout the house.

D. Site: The house faces west and stands unencumbered a few feet from Crown Street in the parking lot of the Kingston Savings Bank. It is near the intersection of Crown and Green Streets.

Prepared by: William C. Badger  
Historian  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
Summer 1972

### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under joint sponsorship of the National Park Service and the Kingston Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission with financial assistance from the New York Council on the Arts. Measured and drawn during the summer of 1972 under the direction of John Poppeliers, chief of HABS and under the supervision of Roy Eugene Graham (University of Texas at Austin) by student architects Philip D. Ward (University of Washington), A. Carol Boerder (University of Texas at Austin), M. Morgan Gick (University of Notre Dame), and Stephen O. Fildes (Texas Tech University). The drawings were edited in December 1972 by architect John Burns. The written architectural and historical data was prepared by William C. Badger (University of Pennsylvania), the project historian, and edited in January 1980 by Susan McCown, a historian in the HABS office. The photos were taken in August 1973 by Jack E. Boucher of HABS staff.